



PENFOLDS BIN 389
CABERNET SHIRAZ



Penfolds

BIN 389
CABERNET SHIRAZ

VINEYARD

Contains 100% of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz
from the Bin 389 vineyard in the Margaret River
region of Western Australia. Penfolds is a member of the
Wine Australia Federation of Australia.

Penfolds
CABERNET - SHIRAZ
BIN 389 - 1981 VINTAGE
Made from Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz
planted in 1961 and aged in oak
barrels and bottled in June 1982.
BOTTLED BY PENFOLDS WINE CO.
NET 1 PT 6 FL OZ

“An army of lovely old wines.”

– JAMES HALLIDAY

The image shows a close-up of a wine label for Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz. The label is white with a light blue background at the top. The word "Penfolds" is written in a large, elegant, red cursive font. Below it, "BIN 389" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "CABERNET SHIRAZ" is printed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

OVERVIEW: Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet Shiraz has earned a reputation among wine consumers and collectors as an Australian classic. Doug Crittenden, a Melbourne wine merchant, was an early supporter of Bin 389 and used to transport the wine over from Adelaide in barrels. Originally Bin 389 (first vintage 1960) was a single vineyard wine, drawing fruit from the now defunct Auldana Vineyard near Magill Estate. Predominantly a Barossa Valley wine at one point, the Bin 389 is now a multi-district South Australian blend with fruit sourced from the Barossa Valley, Coonawarra, Padthaway, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Clare Valley, and more recently, Penfolds' new vineyards in Robe and Bordertown.

Over the last 40 years Bin 389 has developed a strong identity for its consistency, reliability and value. Notwithstanding the vagaries and character of each vintage, the wine has universal appeal among buyers. Wine consumers buy it because it's delicious to drink, even when first released. Collectors appreciate it because the wine over-delivers on quality – especially in classic vintages such as 1976, 1986, 1990, 1996 and 1998. And, as a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, it's a very Australian style of wine.

Max Schubert recognised that blending Cabernet and Shiraz could bring something extra to both aroma and palate. Although there have been major improvements in viticulture and winemaking, the basic idea holds true today. Cabernet Sauvignon is a highly perfumed grape variety with a firm structure and fine grainy tannins. Shiraz is more opulent and fleshy with both power and generosity of fruit. Combined, they produce a wine which can show richness, finesse and longevity.

Penfolds Bin 389 epitomises the Penfolds winemaking philosophy and the art of multi-regional blending. While regional characters are intertwined, it is ultimately the personality and the structure of the fruit that really matters. Bin 389 is vinified in a traditional Penfolds manner. The wine is fermented in headed down, stainless steel tanks. Some components of the blend complete fermentation in barrel to enhance complexity, richness and integration of new oak. The wine is then matured in a combination of new (20-30%) and one and two-year-old American hogsheads for 18 months prior to bottling, with many of the older barrels having been used for the previous vintage of Grange.

PENFOLDS

BIN 389

CABERNET SHIRAZ

First Vintage: 1960

Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz

Origin: Multi-district blend from South Australia's Barossa Valley, Coonawarra, Padthaway, Robe, Bordertown, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Clare Valley.

Fermentation: 10 and 20 tonne stainless steel fermenters with wax lined, wooden header boards. Some components complete fermentation in barrel.

Maturation: 18 months in American oak hogsheads (300 litres). 20-30% new, 70-80% one and two-year-old oak, including barrels used for previous vintage of Grange.





PENFOLDS BIN 389

CABERNET SHIRAZ

Penfolds Bin 389 epitomises the Penfolds winemaking philosophy and the art of multi-regional blending.

In some respects Bin 389 bathes in reflected glory, although one might argue to the contrary that an otherwise classic wine in its own right is overshadowed by its higher profile siblings. In Australia Bin 389 is often referred to as 'Poor Man's Grange'. In America some people call it 'Baby Grange'. However the proof is in the pudding. With all its ripe fruit, richness and generosity, the wine has been much loved over several generations of wine drinkers. James Halliday calls the older vintages "an army of lovely old wines" and Joanna Simon describes the 1961 vintage as "magnificent". Huon Hooke is impressed by the 1970 vintage, "A stand-out wine reminiscent of dusty old barrels, earthy old cellars, forest floors and barnyards."

With the compelling virtues of drinkability and cellaring potential, Bin 389 is one of the stalwarts of the secondary wine market. The best vintages are eagerly sought after by collectors – and for good reason. Vintages such as 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1996 and 1998 were all stand-out wines in this tasting, delivering on their reputation. The panel agreed that there had been "meaningful progress" over the years, largely because of the improvement in vineyard management. Words such as "harmonious", "seamless" and "glorious" are used increasingly to describe the better and more recent vintages. James Halliday says, "The last bracket from 1989 to 2001 is very even – reflecting an impressive discipline in fruit selection and winemaking – especially in such difficult vintages as 2000".

Joanna Simon says of Bin 389, "This is the archetypal Australian wine – it comprises all the very best elements of Australian wine". James Halliday agrees, "Bin 389 is a blend of Cabernet and Shiraz from warm and hot climates. The result is a mix of complimentary aromas and flavours. It just can't work with cool climate fruit".

Along with the other Bin range wines of the 1960s (except Bin 707), Bin 389 derived its name from a compartment, or 'Bin', in the Penfolds cellars at Magill. When experimental wines were bottled, and before they were labelled, they were known by the number of the 'Bin' in which they were stored. When Bin 389 became an ongoing member of the Penfolds portfolio it simply adopted the name of its original storage 'home'.





PENFOLDS BIN 389

CABERNET SHIRAZ

1961 **Now** ★

Deep brick red. Mature gamy/leather/walnut aromas with some sweet dried fruit/minty characters. A complex, layered palate with plenty of sweet fruit and fine tannins. Becomes dry at the finish. A lovely old wine but drink soon.

1964 **Now** ★

Brick red. Mocha/cedar/meaty aromas with some vanilla notes. Still showing plenty of fruit sweetness on the palate with fine chocolaty/smooth tannins. Holding up well but drink now.

1966 **Now**

Deep brick red. Well concentrated wine with complex mushroom/barnyard/liquorice/camphor aromas. The palate is well developed and sweet-fruited with mushroom/meaty/minty flavours and fine powdery/grainy tannins. Finishes grippy and tight. A Cabernet-driven wine.

1967 **Now**

Brick red. A mellow wine with sweet meaty/spice/leather aromas. The palate is fully developed with sweet ripe fruit and savoury tannins. Slightly drying finish.

1970 **Now**

Brick red. A lovely old wine with dusty/cedar/earthy/leather/barnyard aromas and a rich mellow chocolaty palate. The tannins are quite drying at the finish.

1971 **Now**

Brick red. A very aromatic complex sweet fruited wine. Mocha/berry/leather aromas and plenty of savoury nuances. The palate is well concentrated with sweet leather/mocha flavours and grainy/chalky tannins.

1975 **Now**

Brick red. Complex earth/cedar/leafy/herb aromas with some sweet berry aromas. The palate is mature with earth/cedar/mushroom/miso soup flavours and grainy, slightly hard tannins. Still holding up well.

1976 **Now** 2011 ★

Brick red. A powerful wine with sweet ripe notes of liquorice, black fruits, mocha and tar. A slightly oaky but superbly concentrated palate with mocha/liquorice/chocolaty flavours and ripe (but pronounced) tannins. A classic Bin 389 vintage.

1977 **Now** 2007

Medium brick. A sweet and savoury wine with herb garden/floral/minty aromas and some leathery nuances. The palate is solid showing some dark chocolate/berry flavours and strong tannin structure.

1978 **Now** 2008

Medium brick. Old leather/honeycomb/mocha/malt aromas with some leafy characters. A loose-knit wine with mocha/vanilla/sweet earthy flavours and firm tannins.

1979 **Now**

Brick red. Aromatic mocha/leafy/minty Cabernet aromas. A fresh mature palate with some rich gamy/mocha fruit and fine slinky tannins. Finishes dry and a touch minty. Cool vintage.

1980 **Now - Past**

Brick red. Fragrant herb garden/cassis aromas and flavours. A medium concentrated palate with some sweet fruit and pronounced drying tannins. Finishes hard and tight. Drink up.

1981 **Now - Past**

Brick red. Earthy/liquorice/meaty aromas. A firmly structured wine with earthy/liquorice/minty flavours and fine grippy tannins. Leafy and dry at the finish.

1982 **Now**

Brick red. Complex coffee/crème brûlée/mulberry/tomato leaf aromas. The palate is ripe and supple with fine leafy tannins. Drink soon.

Outstanding vintages ★



1983 **Now** **2010**

Brick red. Massive wine with complex cigar box/sweet leather/dark chocolate aromas. Immensely concentrated palate with paneforte/chocolaty flavours and monumental tannins.

1984 **Now** **2008**

Medium deep red. Attractive sweet cherry/plum/cassis aromas with leather/spicy notes. The palate is medium bodied but fresh and fleshy with plenty of ripe fruit. Finishes firm. A surprise considering vintage reputation and past ROP form!

1985 **Now** **2010**

Medium deep red. Cedar/earth/sweet berry aromas. Well concentrated wine with black cherry/cedar/sweet blackberry flavours, strong gravelly tannins and grippy finish.

1986 **Now** **2012** ★

Medium deep red. Intense prune/blackberry/liquorice/allspice aromas. Richly concentrated multi-layered palate with prune/blackberry/mocha fruit and ripe chocolaty tannins. An immensely proportioned wine.

1987 **Now**

Medium deep red. Redcurrant leafy aromas and flavours. Elegantly structured wine with some sweet fruit and chalky tannins. Won't get any better.

1988 **Now** **2013**

Medium deep red. Intense dark chocolate/coffee/meaty aromas. The palate is rich and ripe with mocha/berry fruit, pronounced tannins, spicy oak and plenty of flavour length.

1989 **Now** **2008**

Medium deep red. Liquorice/redcurrant/herb garden aromas. Generously proportioned palate with fleshy redcurrant/leafy fruit and chocolaty tannins. Build up is savoury and it is grippy at the finish.

1990 **Now** **2025** ★

Deep red. Lovely complex wine with plum/cassis/mocha aromas and some earthy/autumnal notes. A richly concentrated palate with masses of sweet fruit and chocolate/plummy flavours intertwined with ripe slinky tannins and mocha oak. The fruit, tannin and oak are in perfect alignment. A great vintage.

1991 **Now** **2020** ★

Medium deep red. Intense cassis/plum/anise aromas with some malty oak characters. A beautifully concentrated and balanced wine with deep-set ripe cassis/plum fruit, fine ripe tannins and classy new oak. An excellent foil to the 1990.

1992 **Now** **2012**

Medium deep red. Earthy/blackberry/liquorice aromas. The palate is well concentrated and solid with black fruit/chocolate flavours and strong, almost monumental tannins. A powerful but tough structure.

1993 **Now** **2012**

Deep red. Stewed prune/dark chocolate/sour cherry aromas. A strongly flavoured palate with choco-berry/sour cherry/herbal flavours and pronounced tannins.

1994 **Now** **2025** ★

Deep red. Profoundly deep wine with intense mocha/berry/meaty/paneforte aromas. The palate is richly concentrated and balanced with plenty of sweet blackberry chocolate/coffee fruit and a massive fine grained tannin structure. A superb wine.

1995 **Now** **2015**

Medium deep red. Dark cherry, earthy aromas with some mineral notes. A medium bodied loose-knit palate with cherry/earthy/wet stone flavours and chalky firm tannins. An elegant style.

Outstanding vintages ★



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1996 **Now** 2020 ★

Medium deep red. Intense pure liquorice/blackcurrant/plummy aromas with some underlying malty oak. A lovely sweet rich ripe wine with plenty of choco-berry fruit flavours, ripe slinky tannins and underlying malt/vanillin oak. Superb flavour length.

1997 **Now** 2008

Medium deep red. Meaty/plum/raspberry aromas with some leafy/herbal tones. An elegantly structured palate with sweet plum/raspberry flavours and fine leafy/chewy tannins. Drink earlier rather than later.

1998 2006 2030 ★

Deep red. A huge ethereal wine with intense blackberry/liquorice/spice/malt aromas. The palate is richly concentrated with deep-set blackberry/mocha fruit and ripe velvety/chocolaty tannins. A blockbuster!

1999 **Now** 2020

Deep red-purple. Ripe plum/blackberry aromas with some meaty nuances. A fleshy wine with plum/blackberry flavours and malt/vanillin oak. The tannins build up firm and grippy towards the finish. A well-balanced wine.

2000 **Now** 2010

Medium red. Red cherry/redcurrant/aniseed aromas with some vegetal/compost notes. A loose-knit early drinking style with attractive red/blackberry flavours and fine tannins.

2001 2006 2020 ★

Deep colour. Intense blackberry spicy/nutmeg/aniseed aromas. The palate is well concentrated with dark chocolate/blackberry flavours and supple ripe tannins. Finishes firm and tight. Still in adolescence.

Outstanding vintages ★